(b) if not, what is the assessment of the success; and

(c) what further steps are proposed to be taken in pursuance of the mediatory role?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) India has offered its good offices to facilitate a negotiated political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. While the search for a political solution continues some progress has been made in narrowing the gap between the positions of the Sri Lanka Government and Tamil groups on many issues. The escalation of the military operations and the imposition of an economic and communications blockade on Jaffna since January 1987 led to India suspending its good offices.

Government are in touch with the two sides to see if conditions can be created to resume negotiations towards a political settlement.

Merger of provinces in Sri Lanka

429. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Sri Lanka have agreed to merge Eastern Province of Sri Lanka with Northern Province: and

(b) if so, what action Government of India have taken for the implementation of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Purchase of Supercomputer

430. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement with any foreign country for the purchase of supercomputer has since been signed;

(b) if so, the name of the country with whom such an agreement has been signed and what are the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) what will be the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inflammatory Speeches made at the Babri Mosque Rally

431. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that highly provocative and inflamble speeches were made by certain persons at the Babri Mosque rally in the Capital on the 30th March, 1987, to arise communal feelings of the Muslim community;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government under the law of the land against such persons; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action to defuse the situation due to the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Mosque dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Administration is seized of the matter.

(c) The Government believes that the matter should be resolved in consultation with the people of the locality.

Death of a Zebra in Delhi Zoo

432. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: